

Subject: Local Memphis Student Athletes Will Travel to Qatar to Compete in Street Child World Cup

Hello XX,

I'm reaching out to let you know about the upcoming Street Child World Cup that is taking place in Doha, Qatar in partnership with Qatar Foundation from October 8-15. **I thought you might be particularly interested in Memphis locals, Marlene Casa Reyes (age 15), Brenda Gonzalez-Lira (age 15), and Yessica Munoz (age 16)—the three teen athletes will be traveling to Doha as part of the team representing the U.S. in the upcoming tournament.**

For background, this year's Street Child World Cup marks the fourth edition of the tournament traditionally held in the host countries of the FIFA World Cup and will bring together 28 national youth soccer teams, representing 25 countries, comprised of some of the world's most talented—and also most vulnerable—athletes, including a team representing the U.S.

Marlene, Brenda, and Yessica are three of 10 girls from cities across the country—all of whom have overcome tremendous odds and challenging circumstances—who have been chosen to compete as part of the U.S. team, led by Street Soccer USA.

Hosted at Qatar Foundation's Education City, the tournament aims to give children from underserved communities the opportunity to showcase their talents and demonstrate the power of sport as a vehicle for social change. In addition to the soccer matches, which will be held in a format similar to the World Cup, the week-long convening will also feature:

- An art program involving workshops with Qatari artist Maryam Faraj Al Suwaidi that will culminate in a festival that showcases participants working alongside other artists.
- A child-friendly Congress that will provide a platform for participating children to put forward their demands for a more equal and fair existence.
- A General Assembly, marking the culmination of the event, which will allow athletes to advocate for their rights and protection before a group of decision makers, as well as share their experiences to raise awareness and educate the public about their circumstances.

Recommendations made at the General Assembly will be compiled into a formal document entitled 'The Qatar Commitment,' a collective pledge to help advance the lives of children living in street situations.

For more details about the Street Child World Cup visit: <https://www.qf.org.qa/events/street-child-world-cup>.

If you're interested in covering the girls' stories or the event more broadly, let me know—I'd be happy to help facilitate an interview or email Q&A pending the team's travel schedules.

Let me know what you think. Look forward to hearing from you.

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